

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 6, 2012

MEDIA CONTACT:

Lesley Malone
Assistant Public Information Officer
Department of Public Works
317-677-6469
lesley.malone@indy.gov

RAIN GARDENS OFFER DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS, HELP IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

INDIANAPOLIS –The City of Indianapolis Office of Sustainability encourages homeowners to consider adding a rain garden to their yard this month. Rain gardens consist of native plants that can thrive in Indiana’s climate and beautify the landscape for your yard and help improve water quality.

Rain gardens are just one form of green infrastructure that allows for more infiltration than turf grass lawns or conventional landscaping. Storm water travels through the plant roots and the soil, filtering out contaminants, bacteria and nutrients typically found in storm water runoff. Rain gardens are effective in removing up to 80 percent of sediments from storm water runoff. Compared to a conventional lawn, rain gardens allow 30 percent more water to soak into the ground. This is important to reduce flooding and improve water quality.

Planted in low-lying areas, rain gardens are designed to catch storm water runoff from downspouts, driveways, parking lots and roads. Native vegetation should be incorporated into rain gardens. Native plants don’t require fertilizer, have deep root systems, and are better at utilizing the water and nutrients available in their native soils than non-native species. When planting your garden make sure to use bigger potted plants this late in the season.

For detailed information on how to identify if a rain garden is the right landscaping option for your lawn and how to start and maintain a rain garden, visit www.indy.gov/sustainindy.



###